Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* So Government are fully aware that there are differences in salaries.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Our object is only to bring these matters to the notice of the Government.

EXPENDITURE—SCRUTINY OF—COMMITTEE FOR

31. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state whether in view of the growing expenditure of public funds the Government will appoint a committee for scrutinising such expenditure with a view to greater economy ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* The growth of expenditure in the present days is mainly due to the emergencies resulting from the abnormal situation on account of the war and the connected activities such as A.R.P., Food Control Measures, Food Production Measures, etc. This is but a temporary phase and when normal conditions are restored, the situation will entirely change. In a period of flux as the present, there is no scope for a committee as the one suggested and the question of a committee has to lie over till normal conditions are restored, and the situation is studied as then obtaining.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Had not the Government said that at least a major portion of the expenditure on A.R.P. would be recouped by the British Government ?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Government only said they will negotiate.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* That is all what they said.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Chair the point that I raised yesterday that in three days only 31 questions have been answered ? May I know, Sir, whether it is due to paucity of questions.

Mr. President: The Secretary to the Council gives the glad news that the number will steadily increase from day to day.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* It is only 31 questions for three days. The average is very low. We should like to know where we stand.

Mr. President: We hope to answer a majority of the questions. One difficulty is that some questions are put rather too late and there is not sufficient time to answer them. Of course, offices are working at a high pressure and I am sure that the number of questions coming up will increase considerably in a day or two. The Secretary says that he has got 300 questions and answers have been received to about 67 per cent of them.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* With regard to the observations that questions have been received late, I may bring to the notice of the Hon'ble President that as long ago as four months back I have given notice of 18 questions. None of them except one have been answered during these three days.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* As guardian of the rights of the House I would request the Chair, to see that not a single convenient or inconvenient question fails to be answered. I hope the Chair as President of this House may be pleased to see that all questions are answered. Many questions drop out.

Mr. President: It is impossible. Will it be enough if they answer that they have no information ?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Even that is enough.

Mr. President: That will be wasting the time of the House.

Adjournment Motion

I have received an adjournment motion from Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan. It is disallowed under rule 52.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

XV. General Administration—Rs. 2,05,377

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I move for an allotment of Rs. 2,05,377 under 15 General Administration. There are a series of cut motions bearing on the general policy and when these cut motions are taken up, I think I can discuss the points more fully. Therefore, I request that the motion may now be considered.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I am glad to note that the Hill Paddy Scheme has been transferred. In view of that there is no necessity for the present cut motion.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly